



LIBRARY

Northwich Urban District Council.

---

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

**For the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1939.**

---

---

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban  
District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my first Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1939. In view of the increasing work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister of Health in his Circular No. 2067 (19th July, 1940) has asked that the report be confined to essential and urgent matters which have arisen during the year.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,137 acres.
Population—Registrar-General's estimate of						
(a) population mid-1939 appropriate to the calculation of Birth Rates	...					19,270.
(b) population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	...					19,230.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)	...					5,461.
Rateable value	...					£120,999 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...					£504 3s. 3d.

The incidence of unemployment is very low and in most industries there is a shortage of labour.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	257	132	125)	Birth Rate per 1,000 of
(Illegitimate	16	6	10)	the estimated resident
				population ... 14.16
Stillbirths (Legitimate	19	14	5)	Rate per 1,000 total (live
(Illegitimate	2	1	1)	and still) births 71.43
Deaths	234	130	104)	Death Rate per 1,000 of
				the estimated resident
				population ... 12.16
				After adjustment by the
				Comparability Factor
				12.76

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	3.40
Total	1	3.40

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	54.54
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	54.05
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	62.50
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	39
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	-

## CAUSES OF DEATH—1939.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—
2. Measles .. ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough... ..	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria... ..	—	1	1
6. Influenza ... ..	5	4	9
7. Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	—	—	—
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. ..	6	2	8
10. Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	1	1	2
11. Syphilis .. ...	—	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	1	2
13. Cancer ... ..	19	20	39
14. Diabetes ... ..	—	3	3
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	8	7	15
16. Heart Disease ... ..	37	18	55
17. Aneurysm ... ..	—	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases ... ..	8	8	16
19. Bronchitis ... ..	4	3	7
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	5	6	11
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	—	1
22. Peptic ulcer ... ..	—	1	1
23. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years of age) ... ..	—	—	—
24. Appendicitis ... ..	—	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of the liver ... ..	—	—	—
26. Other diseases of the liver ... ..	1	2	3
27. Other digestive diseases... ..	1	—	1
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	5	5	10
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—
30. Other puerperal diseases ... ..	—	1	1
31. Congenital debility premature birth ... ..	7	3	10
32. Senility ... ..	1	2	3
33. Suicide ... ..	1	1	2
34. Other deaths from violence ... ..	9	3	12
35. Other defined diseases ... ..	10	11	21
36. Ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	—	—
	130	104	234

### SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no extension of these services during the year. Details of the services available will be found in previous reports.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water.**

No new source of supply was used during the year and the only major improvement to the existing source carried out during the year was the enlargement of the supply mains into the Winnington Ward. The Town's supply was sampled on three occasions for chemical and bacteriological examinations and a satisfactory report was received for each sample.

#### **Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

There have been no important extensions of the sewerage system but the Council in July called for the submission of a scheme for the provision of a new pumping plant at the Whalley Road Pumping Station.

#### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 73 and the number of houses still on the conservancy system in built-up areas is 485.

#### **Public Cleansing.**

The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets, etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

### **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**



ARTICLE 27 (18), SANITARY OFFICER'S REGULATIONS, 1935.

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspectors for the Year ended December 31st, 1939.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number.	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.		
					Notice com- plied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions
			Statutory.	Informal.			Instituted. Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspection)	250	62	40	40	62	....
2.	Cellar Dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	....
3.	Back-to-Back Houses	66	66	....	66	....	....
4.	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	50	8	....	8	....	....
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages	10	....	....	....	....	....
6.	Pail Closets	487	....	32	32	....	....
7.	Cesspools	....	....	....	....	....	....
8.	House Drainage	60	....	60	60	....	....
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	....	....	....	....	....	....
10.	Offensive Accumulations	2	....	2	2	....	....
11.	The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	....	....	....	....	....	....
12.	Offensive Trades	6	....	....	....	....	....
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public) (Private)	....	....	12	....	....	....
	(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold.	572	....	....	....	....	....
14.	Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	....
15.	(a) Dairies	24	....	....	....	....	....
	(b) Cowsheds	12	....	....	....	....	....
	(c) Milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	....
16.	(a) Factories	4	....	....	....	....	....
	(b) Workshops	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(c) Workplaces	16	....	4	4	....	....
	(d) Outworkers' Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....
17.	Bakehouses (Overground) (Underground)	30	....	....	....	....	....
	"	....	....	....	....	....	....
18.	Common Lodging Houses	10	....	4	4	....	....
19.	Houses let in Lodgings	....	....	....	....	....	....
20.	Smoke Observations	....	....	....	....	....	....
21.	Canal Boats	....	....	....	....	....	....
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	132	....	....	....	....	....
23.	Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals		1731	136	154	228	62	....

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

The following table based upon figures submitted to me by the Sanitary Inspector summarizes the main housing activities during the year.

#### 1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	250
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	500
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	66
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	42

#### 2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	40
--	----

#### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

##### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	66
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	66
(b) by local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— ... ..	
(a) by owners ... ..	Nil.
(b) by local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil.

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	57

D.—*Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil.

4.—**Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	50
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	50
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	323
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	Nil.
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ..	87
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	544
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil.

During the year I submitted Officials Representations, made in pursuance of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 with regard to 33 houses in York Place and 29 houses in Whalley Road, and the Council declared these areas to be Clearance Areas under the Housing Act. Most unfortunately, with the outbreak of war any progress under these Clearance Schemes has had to be shelved.

122 new houses have been occupied during the year and 2 were in the course of erection.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year.

38 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory for examination—19 for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and 19 for bacterial content. Tubercle Bacilli were found in three of the samples and seven samples proved to be unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

#### (b) Meat and other Foods.

The following based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspectors is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:—

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approx.) ... ..	1,800	75	3,900	1,900
Number inspected .. .. .	1,000	50	2,500	1,250
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS				
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	6	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	·006	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	20	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	·021	—	—	·0048

(c) The Inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.



SECTION F.

FREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

By regulations dated October 23rd, 1939, the Minister of Health made Measles and Whooping Cough notifiable diseases and all Medical Practitioners in the District have been informed of the Regulations and supplied with forms of notification.

In August the Council decided upon a Diptheria Immunisation Scheme to cover children between the ages of 1—14 years living in their area. The details of the Scheme were being worked out but with the outbreak of war and the pressure of other work action had to be deferred.

There is, however, a stock of Diptheria Prophylatics provided by the Council which is available free of charge to Local Practitioners for the purpose of immunising any children who apply direct to them for the protective treatment.

As to the general incidence of Infectious Diseases, the arrival of 3,050 evacuees into the Districts immediately adjoining the Urban area did not seriously affect the number of Infectious Diseases Notifications received.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for						Number sub- mitted	Result	
							Positive	N'gative
Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	...	...	...	91	10	81
Bacillus typhosus	...	...	..	...	...	5	—	5

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1939.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	94	91	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	13	10	1
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	1	1	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	12	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	5	—	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	4	1	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.  
New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1—5 years	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1
5—15 „	...	...	5	2	...	...	1	...
15—25 „	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
25—35 „	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45 „	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—55 „	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
55—65 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	4	4	7	6	2	1	1

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1938—143.  
Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1939—145.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of Bed-Bugs was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected once during the year and 29 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating Bed-Bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

7th November, 1940.



